

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 HA-05
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /138 W
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R 251358Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3823
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 DAKAR 3074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, SG

SUBJECT: ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE OPENS IN DAKAR

1. SUMMARY: NINTH ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE
CONVENED APRIL 24 AMID TIGHT SECURITY IN DAKAR. OPENING
ADDRESS WAS DELIVERED BY SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER ABDOU
DIOUF, IN ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO WILL BE ON
WORKING VISIT TO TEHRAN UNTIL CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE.
DIOUF CITED PROBLEMS OF PALESTINE, PHILIPPINES AND
MUSLIM MINORITIES IN GENERAL AS MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL
ITEMS ON 56-POINT AGENDA, BUT SUEGESTED THAT ECONOMIC
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QUESTIONS WERE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, SENEGALESE FOREIGN

MINISTER BABACAR BA ASSUMED PRESIDENCY OF CONFERENCE, WITH
PLO, PAKISTAN, LIBYA AND BANGLADESH SELECTED TO OCCUPY
OTHER CONFERENCE OFFICES. ACCORDING TO CONFERENCE
SECRETARIAT GENERAL, ALL OF ORGANIZATION'S 42 MEMBERS
ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT, WITH OVER 30 REPRESENTED BY
FOREIGN MINISTERS WHEN DELEGATIONS ARE COMPLETE. END
SUMMARY.

2. SENGALESE PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF OPENED DAKAR
ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE WITH GENERALLY
TEMPERATE APRIL 24 ADDRESS EHICH SAW ORGANIZATION AS
INSTRUMENT FOR BOTH"COOPERATION AND COMBAT." AMONG
POLITICAL QUESTIONS BEFORE CONFERENCE, DOUF SUGGESTED
THAT PALESTINIAN SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST MERITED
PARTICULAR ATTENTION "BECAUSE OF THE PERMANENT CHALLENGE
THAT ISRAELI EXPANSIONISM CONTINUES TO POSE IN OUR TIME."
WITH RESPECT TO PLIGHT OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES,
HE URGED URGENT EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTION FOUNDED ON RESPECT
OF ALL PARTIES FOR TRIPOLI ACCORDS, WHICH HAD GUARANTEES
FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND HARMONY BETWEEN ANTAGONISTS.

3. REFERRING TO GENRAL AGENDA ITEM ON MUSLIM MINORITIES
IN WORLD, DIOUF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVEREIGNTY AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES CONCERNED MUST BE
RESPECTED, BUT HE ASSERTED THAT THOSE STATES HAD DUTY
TO APPLY TREATIES, RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, "IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH THE UNITED
NATIONS, INSPIRED OR ENACTED IN ORDER TO END COMBAT."
SENEGAL, HE SAID, SOUGHT TO FOSTER COMPREHENSION AND
FRATERNITY BETWEEN ALL RELIGIONS AND COULD NOT HELP BUT
BE CONCERNED WHEN, FOR WHATEVER MOTIVE, ONE POPULATION
GROUP TRIED TO DOMINATE OR ALIENATE ANOTHER IN NAME OF
OUTMODED RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE."

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4. DIOUF NOTED THAT DAKAR WAS SEAT OF AFRICAN COUNSEL
FOR ISLAMIC COORDINATION AND OF JUST-ESTABLISHED REGIONAL BUREAU
OF WORLD ISLAMIC LEAGUE. REMARKING THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COOPERATION WAS NO LESS IMPORTANT TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
THAN POLITICAL ISSUES, DIOUF PLEDGED SENEGAL'S SUPPORT
FOR RESOLUTIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC
ORGANIZATION OF THE RED CRESCENT AND SETTING UP INTER-
NATIONAL UNION OF ISLAMIC BANKS. HE URGED ORGANIZATION
TO WAGE "PACIFIC COMBAT" AGAINST INEQUALITY AND UNDER-
DEVELOPMENT TO BUILD "A BETTER--BECAUSE MORE HUMANE--
WORLD."

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5. AT OPENING SESSION, SENEGAL'S NEW MINISTER OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BABACAR BA, WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE AFTER HIS NOMINATION WAS MADE BY LIBYA (OUTGOING PRESIDENT) AND SECONDED BY GUINEA (IN LATTER'S LATEST FRIENDLY GESTURE TOWARD SENEGAL). SELECTED AS CONFERENCE'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENT WAS PLO, WITH PAKISTAN AS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, LIBYA AS RAPPORTEUR AND BANGLADESH AS CHAIRMAN OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE. KARIM GAYE OF SENEGAL WILL REAMIN ORGANIZATION'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, SINCE HE HOLDS FOUR-YEAR MANDATE. MOST OF ORGANIZATION'S 42 MEMBERS WERE REPORTED PRESENT FOR OPENING SESSION, WITH TOTAL OF OVER 30 FOREIGN MINISTERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECTED ONCE ALL DELEGATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

6. MINISTERIAL WAS PRECEDED BY ABBREVIATED EXPERTS' MEETING ON APRIL 22 WHICH REPORTEDLY REACHED AGREEMENT ON AGENDA OF SOME 62 POINTS, NEARLY HALF OF WHICH ARE POLITICAL QUESTIONS. EXPERTS ALSO SET UP FOUR COMMITTEES TO WORK ALONGSIDE PLENARY DURING MINISTERIAL: POLITICAL/JURIDICAL/INFORMATION (CHAIED BY AMBASSADOR YOUSSEPH SYLLA, CABINET DIRECTOR IN SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTRY), CULTURAL (CHAIED BY SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT MOUSTAPHA CISSE), ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL (CHAIED BY SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA CHAMS EDDINE NDOYE) AND ECONOMIC/SOCIAL (CHAIED BY PIERRE BABACAR KAMA, SENEGAL'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS). OPENING OF PREPARTORY MEETING WAS REPEATEDLY POSTPONED (PARTIALLY DUE TO LATE ARRIVAL OF SAUDI ARABIA EXPERTS) AND, IN THE END, LASTED ONLY FOUR HOURS, WHICH OBSERVERS ARE CONTRASTING FAVORABLY WITH WEEK OF MEETINGS WHICH PROVED NECESSARY BEFORE LAST YEAR'S TRIPOLI MINISTERIAL.

7. AIRPORT STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS ARRIVING IN SENEGAL OVER WEEKEND HAVE BEEN MOSTLY OF ANODYNE VARIETY ALTHOUGH OUTGOING CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALI ABDESSALAM TREIKI, TICKED OFF LIST OF CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING: PALESTINE, WHERE MUSLIMS "ARE VICTIMS OF ZIONIST AGGRESSION;" LEBANON, WHICH RECENTLY BECAME "VICTIM OF ILLEGAL AGGRESSION AND OCCUPATION;" PHILIPPINES, WHOSE GOVERNMENT "HAD NOT RESPECTED" ACCORDS INTENDED TO RESOLVE "TRAGIC PROBLEM" OF MUSLIM MINORITIES; AND RHODESIA, WHERE "RACIST SMITH" SOUGHT TO IMPOSE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

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8. BY COLTRAST, GUINEAN FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKHO OBSERVED QUIETLY THAT GUINEA HAD NOT INSCRIBED ANY PARTICULAR QUESTIONS ON AGENDA AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DEBATE SHOULD BE BASED ON AFRICA'S PREOCCUPATION WITH PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONAL ECONOMIES AND LIBERATING PORTIONS OF CONTINENT STILL UNDER COLONIAL RULE.

9. ECONOMIC ROLE OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IS RECEIVING NOTEWORTHY ATTENTION. LIKE GUINEA'S CISSOKHO, GUINEA-BISSAU FOREIGN MINISTER VICTOR SAUDE MARIA ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES IN HIS ARRIVAL REMARKS. UNDER QUESTIONING FROM REPORTERS CONFERENCE ASSISTANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY AGENRAL KASSEM ZHIRI DEVOTED MOST OF APRIL 22 PRESS CONFERENCE TO EXPLANATION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY FUND (WHICH HAD SET UP 18 ISLAMIC CENTERS IN EUROPE, 18 IN ASIA, 17 IN AFRICA, FIVE IN AMERICA, FOUR IN MIDDLE EAST AND ONE IN AUSTRALIA), ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (WHICH HAD FINANCED "DOZENS OF SOCIAL, COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATION PROJECTS" IN OVER 20 ISLAMIC STATES), AND JERUSALEM FUND (WHICH HAD SPEND MILLIONS "FOR CONSOLIDATION OF RESISTANCE" AGAINST ISRAELI "OCCUPATION"). NOTING THAT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN PAST SEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN PRIMACY MORE TO PURELY POLITICAL QUESTIONS THAN TO "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT OUR UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES EVERY DAY," SENEGAL'S SEMI-OFFICIAL LE SOLEIL PREDICTED THAT DAKAR MEETING WAS "GOING TO PLACE ITSELF BEYOND THE LIMITED FRAMEWORK OF MOSQUES". OBSERVING THAT CONFERENCE HAD MEANS AND WILL TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ARTICLE ARGUED: "IT IS NECESSARY TO GO BEYOND PURELY TACTICAL UNITY AND FORMAL RESOLUTIONS."

10. BULK OF CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE BEHIND CLOSED

DOORS, AND PRESS COVERAGE SO FAR IS LIMITED. EMBASSY
WILL REPORT FURTHER ON AGENDA, COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS
AND DELIBERATIONS ON KEY ISSUES AS DETAILS BEGIN TO FILTER
OUT.
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Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
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